Romance no Hakoniwa
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Itou Natsuo

Scanner cheezy
Translator ayu
Cleaner fishdotlove
Typesetter greenskin
QC rusty

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神とヘン

ハンチトランカ

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The miniature garden of a romance

伊東七つ生

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イ出版

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Postscript

I was over-whelmed when I first saw it at the school festival last year

ロマンスの箱庭

The Miniature Garden of a Romance

ARE YOU TAKING ME FOR A FOOL?

In the practical for "Miniature Garden" course we're required to cultivate a miniature garden
in a flask out of an inorganic substance

LET'S SEE CHIYO...
MASATAKA
YES, SIR
YOU'RE IN THE ADVANCED CLASS ALREADY?
I SEE... YOU PERFORMED WELL IN THE BASIC CULTIVATION CLASS.
BUT,
WHAT OF IT?
THIS IS JUST A PRETTY PIECE OF GARBAGE

ALTHOUGH IT'S ARTIFICIALLY MADE THIS BOTTLED GARDEN IS ALIVE
AND YOU'RE ITS CREATOR, SO TO SPEAK
IT WON'T DO IF YOU DON'T HAVE ANY FEELINGS FOR IT
LISTEN UP, CHIYO
YOU GOT TO THIS CLASS FASTER THAN YOUR PEERS, RIGHT?
FOR YOUR INFORMATION, IT'S NOT LIKE RACING TO SOUTH POLE TO DISCOVER ANTARTICA
TWIST
TWIST
DID YOU REALLY THINK THAT YOU COULD GET HIGH GRADES
WITHOUT HAVING A GOOD LOOK AT YOUR WORK?
!
Ah!
POP

SWOOSH
ANYWAY GO THINK ABOUT WHAT I JUST SAID
LAST YEAR YOU MANAGED TO PASS WITH FLYING COLOURS WITH SUCH HALF-HEARTED WORK
BUT NOW IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT GETTING THE JOB DONE BY CREATING SOMETHING THAT I WILL ACCEPT.
YOUR GARDEN
LOOKS PRETTY
BUT ITS DESIGN...
I DON'T FEEL YOUR PASSION,
CONSEQUENTLY I'M NOT MOVED.
...
...IS INFLUENCED TOO MUCH BY CONTEMPORARY ARTISTS.

That was how my assignment was rejected
CHIYO, YOU'RE NOT GOING HOME FOR WINTER BREAK THIS YEAR, ARE YOU?
IF SO PERFECT! YOU CAN RESUBMIT
COME UP WITH SOMETHING AND HAND IT IN WHEN THE SEMESTER BEGINS AT THE END OF THE MONTH

With this one and only resubmission

my hope of getting straight A's for all foundation classes-

came crashing down

This took place two days before winter holidays started

ASTROGRAPHICA,
ASTRONOMICAL ALMANAC,
BIOLOGY OF THE NIGHT
ARE YOU TAKING ASTROLOGY CLASSES OR SOMETHING?
WELL, I'M STILL THINKING ABOUT THAT, HA-HA
CAN YOU CARRY EVERY-THING?
I'LL MANAGE!
IT'S ALRIGHT IF YOU RETURN THEM SEPARA-TELY.

I really should have divided them...
heavy
But the semester's beginning in just a week
Speaking of passion I must admit I'm not good at it
The Moon is the symbol of the night
but I should probably do something other than using the motif
At any rate I should do more research and try to find my own way—
Whoa!

AH!
!
Clatter
...

OUCH!
OH...
I'M—
I'M SORRY
IT'S ALL RIGHT...
I'LL GET YOU
A NEW ONE
HUH?
'KAY
PLEASE DO

Kunitachi Hiromi
HERE
THANKS.
ISN'T THAT THE STRONGEST TYPE?
ARE YOU PLANNING TO STAY UP ALL NIGHT?
COME TO THINK OF IT, YOU WEREN'T AROUND THIS MORNING
I MEAN YOU'RE USUALLY ASLEEP DURING THIS HOUR
AND I'M ASLEEP BY THE TIME THE NIGHT CLASSES ARE OVER
WELL, UMM

I'M YOUR ROOMMATE
WHO ARE YOU AGAIN?
IN OTHER WORDS,
IT'S THE FIRST TIME WE ACTUALLY GOT TO MEET FACE TO FACE, EVEN THOUGH WE SHARE A ROOM
Hiromi's in the evening programme (17:00~21:00)
Masataka takes regular classes (9:00~15:00)
BESIDES MY BED'S ON THE TOP BUNK—
I'M A MORNING PERSON, WHILE KUNITACHI'S A NIGHT OWL
EVEN SO, I KNOW YOUR NAME—EVERYONE DOES
I SEE YOUR SLEEPING FACE FREQUENTLY THOUGH
Since I sleep on the upper bunk.
What I mean is, everyone knows about him.
I SEE

To pass the highest level exam after just a year and to have his work exhibited at the International Biennale when still being a student Only Kunitachi Hiromi has managed it
It takes a lot of work to master Embroidery The thread needs to be prepared in a special way from silk
To me his work surpassed everything

KUNITAKI SEES THE WORLD DIFFERENTLY
EVEN WITH THE SAME TOPIC,
WELL, BEING ME I WOULDN'T KNOW ABOUT THAT
I COULD NEVER CREATE SOMETHING AS POWERFUL

creak
He sur_ is confident.
...Not without reason.
If it's him, this kind of...
If it's him?
If it were Kunitachi...
how would he portray the night?
HEY, LISTEN!

tick
tick

I'm fine with anything
Observation?
It turned out well in the end but the words actually escaped my lips before I knew it
snip
roll
pull
What am I doing...
...
HMM?
HEY—
UMM...
WELL...
OH, YOUR HAIR!
IT'S YOUR HAIR.

NOT AT ALL
I LOOK DOWN WHEN I'M WORKING
DON'T YOU FIND YOUR BANGS A BOTHER?
ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU'RE WORKING ON SOMETHING SO DELICATE LIKE THIS
YEAH
OH— I SEE
USUALLY, I WEAR A TURBAN—

TURBAN?
HUH?
OH! I- I MEAN...
A HAIR BAND! LIKE THIS
OH...
I WAS THINKING OF SOMETHING LIKE THIS
Fu
Fu
Fu Fu
PFT
I GUESS
HOLDING A SCIMITAR?
AND WEARING A MASK
...WHILE DOING HOME-WORK
CHEW
CHEW
THEN THE SWORD'S MEANING-LESS
Bwa-ha-ha-ha-ha!
LAUGHING HELPS TO STAY AWAKE

NO.
...THIS PIECE, DOES IT HAVE A THEME?
EVEN THAT PIECE FOR THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL?
NO? THEN, WHAT ABOUT YOUR USUAL WORKS?
NONE
NOPE
...DOESN'T IT TROUBLE YOU THAT NO IDEA EMERGES?
NOT AT ALL
OR RATHER,
IF I DON'T COME UP WITH SOMETHING, I'LL EXPLODE,
BECAUSE I HAVE TOO MANY IDEAS.

...
IF YOU IGNORE YOUR CONSTIPATION, YOU'LL DIE, RIGHT?
HUH...?
the piece of art that completely overwhelmed me
In other words
...came from nothing more than an ordinary physiological phenomenon
...
So far apart...

Scratch
Hmph.
FELL ASLEEP?
HUH?
IS THAT YOUR HOME-WORK?
I—
I DIDN'T!
GOOD THEN
AH! YES, THE NIGHT
I'M THINKING OF USING IT AS THE MOTIF.
THE NIGHT
IT'S A FOREST
DEERS. WOLVES
JUPITER?
THE MOON'S OVER HERE

WANNA FRESHEN UP?
I THINK IT'S MORE OF A...
...TEST OF COURAGE...
Ha-ha-ha!

YESTERDAY?
IT'S ALWAYS LIKE THIS DURING THIS SEASON
ALWAYS
I MEAN... I'M USUALLY ASLEEP.
IT'S... AMAZING
OH.
AMAZING
THE FOG TODAY'S THICKER THAN YESTERDAY
O—
OH!

HOW SHOULD I PUT IT?
I KNOW, RIGHT?
MY HEART'S RACING
IT'S THE "REAL THING"
HONESTLY,
MY HEART SKIPPED A BEAT WHEN I SAW YOUR WORK AT THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL
THAT MUST BE BECAUSE--
--IT'S A REAL THING TOO
THOSE ARE THE SAME EYES.

WITH THOSE THREADS YOU WOVE YOUR OWN SELF INTO THE CLOTH.
YOU'RE EXAGGERATING.
I TOO. NO,
I DON'T THINK I'M CAPABLE OF DOING ANYTHING LIKE THAT.
BUT I'M TRYING.
THE MOON.
FOG,
NIGHT DEW,
LAKESIDE,
SINCE IN THE FIRST PLACE, THE TOPIC IS "ROMANCE"
LOVERS' RENDEZ-VOUS.
SHADOWS OF THE FOREST.
THOUGH IT'S RATHER CLICHÉD
HMM.
AS LONG AS I MAKE IT AUTHENTIC,

IF YOU WANT TO MAKE IT A REALISTIC ROMANCE,
SHALL I GIVE YOU A KISS?
HUH?
RUSTLE

PP!!
I'M KIDDING
JUST KIDDING
LET'S GO BACK
HUH?!
UMM...
AH—

In other words in the end we let it drop like a huge joke—
YEAH
YOU'RE AWAKE NOW, RIGHT?

It seems that I passed out immediately afterwards
A gift for you
Thank you yesterday
It's his?
Oh, this...
When I returned to the dormitory
creak
Shut
...Kunitachi was asleep as usual.

I guess we won't be seeing each other for a while
Ear plugs
Eye mask
The flask on the table remained untouched
rattle
The night passed by like a joke and when dawn broke, nothing had really changed
Nothing?
flip

Shadows of trees.
The Moon.
Fog
scratch
scratch
scratch
The vague outline.
The glaring light.
The reflection in his eyes.
"SHALL I GIVE YOU A KISS OR SOMETHING?"

The End

1. - Hiromi's youngest brother
2. - Hiromi's younger brother
3. - Hiromi's younger sister
4. - Hiromi's mother
5. - Hiromi's elder sister
6. - Hiromi's grandmother, calls him "Shiromi"
7. - Hiromi's grandfather

8 - dog
9 - cat
10 - parrot Pike
11 - Hiromi's father